

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A hair clip, comprising first and second hair retainers for retaining hair there between, each of said hair retainers having a first end portion and a second end portion, a pivotal shaft for pivoting said hair retainers at said first end portions and a spring for urging said second end portions of said hair retainers in a closing direction thereof, wherein said first hair retainer is provided with a pair of opposing outside hinge ledges at said first end portion and said second hair retainer is provided with a pair of opposing inside hinge ledges at said first end portion, wherein said pair of outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer are disposed outside of said pair of inside hinge ledges of said second retainer, and wherein said pivotal shaft is inserted into shaft-receiving apertures formed in said inside and outside hinge ledges so that said pair of hair retainers are pivoted about said pivotal shaft, characterized in that:

said first hair retainer is provided with a hinge ledge cover connecting inner side edge portions of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer located at said second end portion side thereof and covering inner side edge portions of said inside hinge ledges of said second hair retainer, said inner side edge portions being portions located at said second end portion side of said second hair retainer,

each of said inside hinge ledges is provided with a hinge ledge cover introducing slot corresponding to said hinge ledge cover at each basal end portion thereof, so that said pair of hair retainers takes a closed position with said hinge ledge cover fitted in said hinge ledge cover introducing slots, whereby said hinge ledge cover covers said inner side edge portions of said inside hinge ledges and a space between said inside hinge ledges irrespective of an opening angle of said hair retainers.

Claim 2 (Original) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein said hinge ledge cover slot extends to a region below said pivotal shaft, whereby a tip end of said hinge ledge cover is positioned below said pivotal shaft in said hinge ledge cover introducing slot when said pair of hair retainers are in a closed position.

Claims 3 – 9 (Delete)

Claim 10 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein said hinge ledge cover and said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer cover said inside hinge ledges of said second hair retainer irrespective of said opening angle of said hair retainers.

Claim 11 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 2, wherein said hinge ledge cover and said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer cover said inside hinge ledges of said second hair retainer irrespective of said opening angle of said hair retainers.

Claim 12 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein said hinge ledge cover integrally extends from an inner surface of said first hair retainer.

Claim 13 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 2, wherein said hinge ledge cover integrally extends from an inner surface of said first hair retainer.

Claim 14 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 10, wherein said hinge ledge cover integrally extends from an inner surface of said first hair retainer.

Claim 15 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 11, wherein said hinge ledge cover integrally extends from an inner surface of said first hair retainer.

Claim 16 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 17 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 2, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 18 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 10, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 19 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 20 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 12, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion

Claim 20 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 12, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 21 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 13, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 22 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 14, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 23 (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 15, wherein each of said outside hinge ledges of said first hair retainer is provided with an outwardly protruded cylindrical portion formed on an outer surface thereof and surrounding said shaft-receiving aperture thereof, and wherein each of enlarged head portions of said pivotal shaft is disposed in said cylindrical portion.

Claim 24 (New) The hair clip as recited in any one of claims 1-2 or 10-16, wherein said first hair retainer is an integral synthetic resin molded article.

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Claim ²⁵ (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein said second hair retainer is
a metal plate press molded article.

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Claim ²⁶ (New) The hair clip as recited in claim 1, wherein said first and second hair
retainers are an elongated member respectively, and wherein said first end portions of said first and
second hair retainers constitute lever portions.

Respectfully submitted,

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